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**AUTOMATIC RELEVANCE-BASED  
PRELOADING OF RELEVANT INFORMATION  
IN PORTABLE DEVICES**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

10 A system for automatic proximity-based preloading of relevant information in  
portable devices pre-loads a portable device such as a mobile telephone, a  
personal digital assistant (PDA) or portable computer before the occurrence of a  
trip or event, with information relevant to the user's current or upcoming tasks. The  
system locates and loads into the portable device only the information required by  
the user for near term projects, meetings, or trips. The system is generally  
15 comprised of an information catalog, a proximity estimator, a relevance estimator,  
an information retriever, and a device loader. The information catalog contains a  
list of the information sources and items to which the user has access and from  
which the system of the invention will retrieve data to be loaded into the mobile  
device. The proximity estimator determines the proximity of various relevant  
20 information items to the user's tasks based on distance, time, and / or association.  
The relevance estimator combines these proximity measures into a single  
relevance score. The most relevant information is retrieved by the information  
retriever and loaded onto the portable device by the device loader.